

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Industry, Tourism and Resources Portfolio  
Budget Estimates Hearing 2007-08  
28 May 2007

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND RESOURCES

**TOPIC:** Commercialising Emerging Technologies (COMET) Program

**REFERENCE:** Written Question

**QUESTION No. B1-44**

**Senator Campbell** asked:

How does the grant application process work?

**ANSWER.**

There are two main stages in the COMET application process:

- i. Determining whether the applicant and the proposal meet the basic eligibility criteria.
- ii. Assessing the merits of the proposal against the merit criteria.

Before applying for assistance, customers should consider whether they are likely to be eligible. To help determine eligibility, the customer is encouraged to fill out and submit to AusIndustry a *COMET customer pre-application checklist*. The checklist is available from:

- AusIndustry state or territory offices;
- the AusIndustry website: [www.ausindustry.gov.au](http://www.ausindustry.gov.au) or; and
- the AusIndustry Hotline 13 28 46.

The checklist helps determine whether a product or project is suitable for COMET funding. Once submitted, an AusIndustry customer service manager will contact the customer with advice on the eligibility of their proposal and, if appropriate, put the customer in contact with a COMET business adviser who will discuss whether the customer should proceed with a full application.

COMET business advisers make confidential assessments of applications and provide them to the COMET National Manager. While it is not essential that a COMET business adviser support an application, it is necessary that a COMET business adviser assessment accompanies an application for consideration by the COMET National Manager, the Industry Research & Development Board Delegate and Program Delegate.